

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 IO-13 OMB-01 CIAE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

MC-02 ACDA-19 NIC-01 RSR-01 /190 W

----- 038090

R 240932Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1067

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USCINCEUR

CINCLANT

COMIDEASTFOR

DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1087

USCINCEUR AND CINCLANT FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR ET SO

SUBJ: SIAD ASKS FOR US HELP TO RESTRAIN ETHIOPIA

REF: STATE 143589 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: SIAD CALLED IN CHARGE JULY 23 AND MADE HOUR-LONG PLEA FOR PRESIDENT NIXON AND USG TO "BRING ETHIOPIA TO ITS SENSES." WHILE HE CLAIMED IT LUDICROUS TO SUPPOSE SOMALIA COULD WIN MILITARY VICTORY OVER ETHIOPIA, GSDR, WHICH BELIEVES BORDER SITUATION MORE TENSE, CONVINCED THAT IEG INTENDED PREEMPTIVE ATTACK AGAINST SOMALIA, URGED ON BY ISRAELIS. HE  
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FELT OAU COMMITTEE HAD BEST OF INTENTIONS BUT COULD ACCOMPLISH

LITTLE GIVEN IEG ATTITUDES. DISCOURAGED, HE HAD DONE ALL HE COULD: THOSE WHO ENCOURAGED AND SUPPORTED ETHIOPIA MUST NOW TAKE BLAME FOR CONFLICT. END SUMMARY.

2. SIAD FIRST EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN OVER PRESIDENT NIXON'S ILLNESS. HE PRAISED PRESIDENT'S GREAT INTERNATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS OVER PAST TWO YEARS AND SAID MUCH MORE NEEDED BE DONE -- IN CONTINUING EAST-WEST DETENTE, IN MIDDLE EAST AND IN HORN OF AFRICA.

3. SIAD THEN PROCEEDED TO BUILD SOMALIA'S CASE AGAINST ETHIOPIA, PRIMARILY USING FAMILIAR ARGUMENTATION:

A. HISTORICAL: IEG HAD CONSORTED WITH BRITISH, FRENCH AND ITALIANS TO DIVIDE UP SOMALI TERRITORY.

B. ECONOMIC: OGADEN WITHOUT ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE TO ETHIOPIA UNTIL US OIL COMPANY "SUDDENLY STARTED DRILLING" ON BORDER; GSDR CONVINCED THAT TENNECO'S CLAIMED POL STRIKES WERE FALSE.

C. MILITARY: IEG HAD TWO AND ONE-HALF DIVISIONS POSITIONED FACING GSDR'S THREE BRIGADES; SOMALIA LACKED WEAPONS, MANPOWER AND ECONOMIC STRENGTH TO TAKE ON ETHIOPIANS.

D. INTENT: WHILE IT TRUE SOMALIA WANTED REGAIN USURPED TERRITORY, IT DEVOTED TO PEACE, WOULD NOT FIGHT UNLESS ATTACKED, AND WANTED TO NEGOTIATE THE QUESTION.

E. WHY HAD ETHIOPIA MOVED TROOPS AND HIM BROKEN OFF DIALOGUE WITH SIAD? SOMALIS COULD ONLY CONCLUDE THAT "OTHER POWERS" WERE EGGING ON ETHIOPIANS. WHILE HE SINGLED OUT ISRAEL AS CHIEF OFFENDER, US, HE HINTED, WAS BEING DUPED AND HAD NOT BEEN TOUGH ENOUGH WITH ADDIS

4. CHARGE REVIEWED REFTEL NEWSOM-ADDOU JULY 18 MEETING, STRESSING ROLE OF OAU COMMITTEE. SIAD SAID ABOU HAD REPORTED. PRESIDENT SAID THAT DESPITE ETHIOPIAN DISCLAIMER, TROOP CONFRONTATION AT BORDER WAS A REAL PROBLEM. ETHIOPIAN UNITS WERE INCREASINGLY "NERVOUS" AND HE HAD ABSOLUTELY RELIABLE INFO THAT COMMANDER OF IEG THIRD DIVISION HAD SAID HE WOULD ATTACK SOMALIS WHETHER OR NOT HIM AGREED. IF PRESENT SITUATION CONTINUED, SIAD DID NOT SEE HOW SERIOUS INCIDENT COULD BE AVERTED. ISRAELIS, HE CHARGED, WERE EGGING ON ETHIOPIANS, STATING THEY "KNEW" USG WOULD SUPPLY EQUIPMENT  
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IF CONFLICT BEGAN.

5. CHARGE REPLIED THAT IN ADDITION TO IEG ASSURANCES AS TO DEFENSIVE ROLE OF THEIR MILITARY, A RECENT SURVEY BY OUR MILITARY HAD SHOWN THAT ETHIOPIAN FORCES IN OGADEN HAD DEFENSIVE POSTURE. THEY LACKED POL, TRANSPORT AND AMMO FOR MORE THAN BRIEF ACTION, AND WERE CERTAINLY NOT CAPABLE OF SUSTAINED OFFENSIVE. RE ISRAELIS, I COULD NOT BELIEVE THEY HAD MADE

ALLEGED STATEMENT OR THAT IEG WOULD GIVE ANY CREDENCE TO IT. AS AMBASSADOR LOORAM HAD TOLD HIM, ETHIOPIANS INDEED WERE CONCERNED ABOUT SOMALI MILITARY BUILDUP AND GENUINELY FEARED SOMALI ATTACK. IF MILITARY BALANCE WAS SO STRONGLY TIPPED IN ETHIOPIAN FAVOR, COULD NOT SOMALIS DEMONSTRATE THAT FACT TO OAU COMMITTEE AND TO WORLD PRESSMEN WHO SEEMED TO EXAGGERATE DEGREE OF SOVIET INVOLVEMENT AND SOPHISTICATED ARMS DELIVERED.

6. OAU COMMITTEE, SIAD STATED, WAS TRYING TO HELP BUT HE FEARED IEG WAS TOO TOUGH FOR AFRICAN BODY. HE HAD INSTRUCTED HIS MINISTRY OF INFORMATION TO FACILITATE WESTERN JOURNALISTS' ENTRY AND COMPLETE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT. "BUT NOBODY PRINTS OR BELIEVES A STORY WHICH SAYS WE DON'T HAVE ALL THESE WEAPONS."

7. SIAD MADE INTERESTING COMMENT ON SOVIET MILITARY ROLE: HE SAID THEY COMMITTED TO EQUIP ONE SOMALI DIVISION; "SOVIETS, LIKE US IN ETHIOPIA, CAN CONTROL USE OF OUR ARMY. IF THEY DO NOT DELIVER POL OR SPARE PARTS, MY ARMY CAN'T FIGHT."

8. CONCLUDING, SIAD ASKED THAT HIS BEST WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY BE CONVEYED TO PRESIDENT NIXON AND HIS RENEWED "APPEAL" THAT USG TALK VERY FRANKLY INDEED TO ETHIOPIA. ABOVE ALL, US SHOULD TIGHTEN CONTROLS ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE GIVEN IEG WHICH HAD MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR INTERNAL DEFENSE NEEDS. HE PERSONALLY HAD DONE ABOUT ALL HE COULD. RESPONSIBILITY FOR HOSTILITIES NOW ON SHOULDERS OF THOSE WHO DID NOT RESTRAIN ETHIOPIA.

9. COMMENT: NINETY MINUTE MEETING (DURING WHICH ETHIOPIA TOOK TWO-THIRDS OF TIME) WAS VERY RELAXED. SIAD SEEMED TO WANT TO TALK AND TWICE WAVED OFF AIDE WHO WANTED TO GET HIM ON SCHEDULE. (IT TURNED OUT THAT THE NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR COOLED HIS HEELS FOR THIRTY MINUTES.) SIAD LOOKED WELL AND CONFIDENTIAL

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WAS COURTEOUS, RESTRAINED -- EVEN GENTLE. BUT HE IS CLEARLY WORRIED AND DISCOURAGED. CROMWELL

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